

FREE POLAND

A SEMI-MONTHLY

The Truth About Poland and Her People

Vol. I—No. 9

JANUARY 16, 1915

5 Cents a Copy



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War Sufferers in Europe

By MRS. PRESCOTT D. HOARD



FUND has been started for the destitute women and children of Poland by the Polish-American women. As an American and humanitarian, I have joined that committee.

"An article in the 'Outlook' of Sept. 16, 1914, explains the situation of Poland in the present war. The latest newspaper accounts, one month old, give statements of conditions that must have grown tragic in the meantime. I quote as follows from 'The Outlook': 'Before the war is over, and whatever its result, her wealth will be annihilated, her population decimated, her soil drenched in blood, and her sons incorporated in three hostile armies, killing off one another. The splitting of the nation into three parts under three different rules was the greatest calamity that could have befallen Poland. It estranged the people from one another and made concerted action impossible.'

"I have tried to think of myself as a child in the same circumstances as the Polish children are now placed; with no home, no place of flee, starving, cold and helpless. I am thankful that my youth contained no such pictures, as my home land one vast waste and a field of dead and dying. An appeal is made to the school children to help, even in a small way, these unfortunate children, for the sake of the sweetness of their childhood, which holds no memory of blood.

"We should have made our Christmas an occasion of giving and not one of exchange. There are women and children who need bread, whose Christmas star was not one upon a tree in a luxurious home but a star of the heavens, and whose gift will be that of living and being spared from slaughter.

"How few of us realize, when we hear Paderewski's music from our Victrolas, or those more fortunate who have heard him play, that this nation gave to the world so great a genius. Cannot the music lovers make this a special appeal for their assistance?"

Poland's Call

By ANTOINETTE ADAMOWSKI



AMONG the calls of European nations for America's aid, shall the voice of Poland be unnoticed and unheeded? In the terrible cataclysm which befell the eastern hemisphere it was ordained by fate that the most innocent and unoffending victims should bear the heaviest share of misfortune. Belgium in the West, and Poland in the East, became the two principal

theatres of war; most of the horrors are perpetrated in their territories; their people's plight is the most severe.

If, however, unfortunate Belgium (about which more is heard in America than about the more distant Polish land), is reduced from a rich and prosperous country to a ruined one, how much more terrible the fate of Poland, already exhausted by 150 years of oppression and slavery? Where can we find so tragic a situation as in this thrice unhappy land, torn in three parts, with its sons forced to kill each other in the service of their greatest enemies? Can anyone conceive a more horrible thing than to be compelled to become a fratricide in shielding one's bitterest foes?

Yet far beyond these horrors on the distant horizon, tinted with human blood, and the glow of incendiary fires, we see the faint glimmer of the dawn of liberty. After more than a century of untold suffering and oppression there is a ray of hope for at least relative independence to the Polish nation. All the Polish men and women wish to have their share of work and offering towards this glorious end.

Poland, the poorest, the least free among the nations of this world, calls to the richest and most independent country on earth. And its cause is the cause of freedom, always dear to the American people. Will not the American citizens respond with their habitual generosity and high-heartedness?

To Lovers of Philately



OW many persons know that just fifty-five years ago dear old Poland issued a genuine postage stamp of her own? To be exact it was in the spring of 1860.

The picturesque design, rarity, color, size, shape and value of denomination as well as of the number issued afford some interesting facts.

Poland depicted on this stamp an impressive illustration of a winged creature with a crown and extended claws, very similar to the cover design chosen by this welcome publication, "Free Poland."

In color the stamp came in a magnificent shade of blue and rose, the two forming a remarkable contrast and very effective for this purpose. In fact it is a masterpiece of the engraver's art of those years.

Shaped very much like the postage stamps of the United States, it is also of about the same size, a trifle smaller if anything, and manufactured of a vertically laid paper.

The face value was a 10 Kopec denomination, but worth many times that amount today in the eyes of stamp collectors, one specimen of which is in my album, and which I covet extremely as I read deep into the columns of "The Truth about Poland and Her People."

But alas! the year of 1865 saw the downfall of these famous stamps as they were superseded by those of Russian.

As far as can be estimated from those discovered and still in existence about 5,000 copies were probably printed. It will be remembered that a few years ago a native of Poland unearthed a quantity of these among some old letters that had been brought over to this country. All in all, it is certainly an alluring specimen of a postage stamp.

If any reader desires information leading to discovery of one or more please write me, and I can give him or her some valuable information.

WALTER H. HAMEL,

(Member, Philatelic Union)

1006 So. 14th street, Lafayette, Ind.



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THE VIRTUOSI



As grouped by J. B. OGLOZINSKI, a Chicago Artist

The Virtuosi



RYDERYK FRANCISZEK CHOPIN was born at Żelazowa Wola, near Warsaw, Russian Poland, February 22, 1810. At an early age he showed fondness for music. Adalbert Zwiny was his piano-teacher, while Joseph Elsner gave him lessons in compositions. A delicate boy, he seems nevertheless to have enjoyed a good hearty joke, and he was possessed of a talent for mimicry which convinced his friends of later years (Liszt, George Sand, and Balzac among them) that he could have succeeded as an actor.

In August, 1829, he gave two concerts in Vienna. His first concert in Warsaw was given in March, 1830, and was followed by a second. He gave concerts in Munich, in September of the same year and then in Paris, which was his home for the remaining eighteen years of his life.

He had composed, but not published, several of his "Etudes," among them the great C minor, Op. 10, No. 12, called the "Revolutionary," because inspired by his wrath at the fall of Warsaw; his first sonata; and his "F minor Concerto." The "Adagio" (inspired by Constanca Gładowska, one of his earlier "flames"), and the "Rondo" had been publicly played by him.

In Paris he was surrounded by men of genius and women of talent, among them Liszt, Heine, Berlioz, Merimee, Meyerbeer, Balzac, Dumas, De Musset, Ary Scheffer, and George Sand. His "E minor Concerto" he played in February, 1832; Mendelssohn was among those who applauded him.

In 1835 Chopin was in Germany. He met his father in Karlsbad, and in Dresden fell in love and became engaged to Marya Wodzinska. Marya's father objected to the engagement on the ground of Chopin's lack of means, and it was broken in 1837. In July of that year, already in the incipient stage of consumption, he made a trip to England.

Chopin met George Sand in 1837, and the result was a liaison, which she deftly turned into "copy" in *Lucrezia Floriani* and *Histoire de ma vie*. The "polyandrous Sand", it seems, began to be bored with his company, and the break occurred in 1847. Thereupon Chopin wrote: "I have never cursed any one; but now I am so weary of life that I am near cursing Lucrezia (Sand). But she suffers too, and more because she grows older in wickedness." He paid a second visit to England, in April, 1848, and played with success.

In January, 1849, he returned to Paris to die. Kind women soothed his last days. Jane Stirling, in love with him, sent him 25,000 francs, for he was poor. His sister Louise, and the Countess Delphine Potocka were with him to the end. His mind wandered back to Sand, for referring to her he said: "She told me I would die in no arms but hers." He died on October 17, and was buried in Pere Lachaise, between Cherubini and Bellini.

Chopin is the emancipator of the pianoforte from the thralldom of the orchestral style of composition. He is called the originator of the "single-piece" composition, as distinguished from the suite or sonata. A Pole, his music is tinged with melancholy for his country's misfortune. The "Mazurkas" are described as flowers scattered over the grave of Poland. The Nocturnes are more personal and sad in expression. Of the "Valses" graceful, vivacious, tender, Schuman said: "The dancers should be countesses"; of the Polonaises, "they are cannon buried in flowers"; of Chopin as a melodist, "he leans over Germany

into Italy." Among his most beautiful compositions are the "Preludes."

Great delicacy and singing quality of tone seems to have been the characteristics of his playing, Thalberg, when he had left one of Chopin's concerts, suddenly began to shout at the top of his voice. Asked by his friend Droyschöck what was the matter, he replied: "I have been listening to nothing but piano; I want a little forte." Chopin cultivated the effeminate at the expense of the virile. The latter is found in the F minor "Fantaisie" and in plenty among the Polonaises, the Ballads, the Scherzos, and the Etudes. He wrote also Impromptus, some chamber music, songs, and two concertos.

"I cannot create a new school, because I do not even know the old," he once said. "But this very absence of conservative prejudice," writes a noted critic, "made him the leader of modern romanticism. An admirer of Bach and Mozart, he brought a marvelous insight into the laws of harmony, and a love of orderliness, as concerns form, to his work. He was one of the most adventurous of harmonists, revelling in chromatics and in other new and exquisite effects."

* * *



TANISŁAW MONIUSZKO was born in 1820, in Ubiel, Government of Minsk, Russian Poland. He perfected his musical education under Rungenhagen of Berlin; in that city he also taught for a livelihood, but subsequently settled in Vilna. He was a prolific composer. He became director of the Warsaw Opera, and held a faculty position at the Warsaw Conservatory. His works include numerous songs, church music, chamber music, orchestral and instrumental pieces, and fifteen national Polish operas, the most popular among them being "Halka". He died in 1872.

* * *



GNACY PADEREWSKI was born in 1859, in Podolia, Russian Poland. His musical education began as soon as his predilection for music manifested itself. When only in his eight year he gave public recitals. He studied under Raguski at the Warsaw Conservatory, in which he became himself a professor at the age of eighteen. In 1884 he accepted a similar position at Strassburg, and in 1887 made his formal debut in Vienna, and was at once placed in the foremost ranks of pianists. In 1890 he created a furor by his marvelous playing, and in 1892, 1893, 1895-6, 1899, he appeared in the United States. For his three months' season in the United States, 1895-6, he received the net sum of \$200,000, and he gave for a fund to encourage American composers \$10,000. In 1902 he personally conducted his opera *Manru*, which met with an enthusiastic reception. His works include largely compositions for the piano; as "Prelude et Minuet"; *Elegie* Op. 4: *Danses polonaises*, chamber music, songs, and the grand opera *Manru* (1900). An ardent patriot, he is at present engaged in actively helping the unfortunates in Poland.

"His pronounced individuality," writes one critic, "his freedom from affectation his vivid appreciation of tone gradations and values, his wonderful technique and mastery of the pedals, and a singularly intellectual conception and interpretation of the great masters of his repertoire, easily determine him as the greatest pianist of his day and generation."

Poland and the Present War

By J. H. RETINGER



FOR many years now the average Englishman has been accustomed to regard Poland as a splendid poem, a moving stage-play. Only the terrible fate of Belgium has helped him in some measure to realise that the poem which is called Poland has been much more in the nature of a surgical operation of which a whole nation is the unwilling victim.

In 1772, the year of the partition, the kingdom of Poland was about 780,000 square kilometers in extent. In this earliest attempt to tear asunder the "living flesh of Poland", in the vivid language of the Russian Commander-in-Chief, Prussia, Austria, and Russia seized territory of about 226,000 square kilometers in area. In 1793, Russia and Prussia divided between them a further portion of about 300,000 square kilometers, and three years later all three Powers completed the partition of Poland. Not, however, until the Congress of Vienna (1815) were the frontiers of the three Powers definitely fixed. Russia's share consisted of the nine governments of Lithuania and Ukraina, i.e., Vilna, Grodno, Kovno, Mohilew, Minsk, Vitebsk, Podolia, Volhynia and Kieff, besides the kingdom of Poland; while the Prussians acquired West Prussia, the Duchy of Poznan (Posen), and part of East Prussia; and the Austrians secured the whole of Galicia. The territory which formerly formed part of the kingdom of Poland now contains a population of forty-one millions. To day, however, the districts mainly inhabited by the Poles do not include the nine governments of Lithuania and Ukraina, although the Poles there still form a very large minority. On the other side, the Polish ethnographical territory extends to Austrian and Prussian Silesia. The total number of Poles in Europe is more than twenty-three and half millions.

These plain figures should show the supreme importance of the Polish question in Central and Eastern Europe, so much the more since Poland, though geographically mutilated almost beyond recognition, politically and aesthetically is a vivid and forceful individuality as ever lived and preserved its soul through almost unendurable oppression. Mental and bodily bludgeoning served not to break, but to buttress its national spirit; and though to-day scarcely a family has not its sons and brothers domiciled in different parts of Poland, though Pole is fighting Pole, brother against brother, son against father, in a war which was none of their seeking, tomorrow, please God, will see Poland, proud and united, once more take her place among the nations.

Until the last insurrection, which ended in 1864, Poland was a living symbol of the fight for freedom. Rising time after time against overwhelming odds, the Poles allowed no opportunity to escape of demonstrating their passionate desire for liberty. Eighty thousand of them fought with Napoleon, clinging to the end, with pitiful persistence, to the shreds of promises he had held out to them of deliverance from the oppressors' yoke. With General Chrzanowski and the then Colonel Zamojski, they helped the Belgians in their war of independence. A Polish General, Mieroslawski, was leader of the insurrection in Sicily; later, General Chrzanowski became commander of the Sardinian forces; Dembinski, Wysocki, and Bem, all Poles, led the Hungarian struggle for freedom in 1848.

At the time of the Crimean War, General Count Zamojski offered a corps of Polish volunteers to the British Government, and they were accepted, though the subsequent end of the war gave them no opportunity of taking part in any important battle. Every American knows the names of Kosciuszko and Pulaski, co-partners with Washington in the pioneer work of American independence. In the early years of the nineteenth century, Poland's hopeless struggles gave expression to the libertarian tendencies of Europe. Thomas Campbell, Lamartine, and Tennyson celebrated them in verse; British diplomats sent sympathetic despatches... but the Poles still suffered. The first article of the Treaty of Vienna, from which neither Great Britain, France, Russia, Austria, nor Prussia has withdrawn its signature, still promised: "Les Polonais, sujets russes, autrichiens, et prussiens, recoivent une representation et des institutions nationales."....

After 1863, the policy of the Poles changed, and they turned to more pacific propaganda. They rose no more in hopeless rebellion, though not a drop of the blood shed in innumerable battles was spilt in vain, but they now encouraged education and science; they endeavoured to develop their industries, neglected and all but ruined by wars and levies. In this direction, again, not a single hindrance was spared them. Unjust taxation aimed at the prevention of industry; Russia's prohibition of the building of roads and railways prevented the growth of commerce. High schools were closed, universities were Russianised, secondary and primary schools either closed or Germanised or Russianised; and for many years not a single lesson was learnt in Polish, in Russian or Prussian Poland.

For many years now both Prussian and Russian Governments have forbidden private persons or institutions to teach the Polish language to Polish children. Immediately the well-known Ukaze of 1905 was issued, over a thousand primary schools were opened in Russian Poland and attended by sixty-three thousand children. Eighteen months afterwards all of them were closed. The Polish religion was persecuted, most of their Bishops exiled, the Unites exiled or executed, the head of the Polish Church, Cardinal Ledochowski, confined in a Prussian prison; over a milliard marks were voted by the Prussian Government for the acquisition of Polish estates.... but all in vain. The Polish spirit refused to be broken; the Polish population increased faster than the foreign element; Polish banks in Prussian Poland successfully financed landowners against the German Colonisation Commissions; the industry of Russian Poland became the most important in the whole Empire, amounting to 24 per cent. of the total; and, finally, Polish culture produced Mme. Curie, Sienkiewicz, Paderewski. Never more significant than now, even in this heavy storm of war that hangs over and harasses Poland, was the utterance of an eminent Victorian statesman: "Polish nationality cannot be extinguished."

The situation of the Poles is particularly distressing in the present war. The measure of their newly-revived hope of ultimate independence is the measure of their present suffering. It is, of course, well known that three similar proclamations have been issued by Russia, Ger-

many, and Austria, promising a united Poland, political freedom, and even self-government. The three protagonists are moving hand and foot to win over the population of this country; even the Prussians, who with one hand bring war and destruction, offer assurances of good faith with the other. More than any other country, more even than Belgium, is Poland stricken by the war. On three-quarters of Polish territory the brunt of it is being waged. The biggest battles of the Eastern campaign have been, and have still to be, fought there.

But even more important and more profound is the psychological storm through which the soul of Poland is passing. There are now over 600,000 Polish soldiers in three opposing armies—120,000 in the Austrian, 80,000 in the Prussian, and 400,000 in the Russian army—all forced to fight one against the other, and even quite literally brother against brother. Among my own friends are two Polish brothers, one of whom is a Prussian subject, and the other a Russian, and both are at the front. Quite recently the newspapers published a story which reads like an act of a Greek tragedy. During a lull in the fighting in Galicia, doctors on both sides went forward and shook hands and exchanged cards on the battlefield. All of them were Poles....

From the sentimental point of view, the position is even more distressing. On the one hand are the majority of the Poles, Russian subjects, who believe in the promises of the Russian Commander-in-Chief, and have thrown in their lot with Russia. On the other hand are the very large minority of Poles who owe allegiance to the Crown of Prussia, but who have no faith in the Prussian promises, and are forced by direct necessity to remain quiet, if not quiescent. Last, but not least, are the Poles in Galicia, who have been well treated during the last fifty years, and who are bound by inconsiderable ties of affection to the Emperor Franz Josef.

A hundred and fifty years of bloody oppression and bitter persecution have not passed over the heads of the Poles without leaving their mark on Polish character, and it is not unnatural that the complex nature of the calamity now being enacted in Central Europe has found them rent by not unreasonable suspicion of the various political influences at work. It is very difficult at this moment for a Pole to find, still less to fulfill, the correct attitude towards the war and the conflicting forces. The facts of the situation, however, are plain and positive. Every Pole hates Prussia, not only the Government, but the people, who have always, with very few exceptions, joined the Government in its campaign of extermination against the Pole.

The next plain fact is the sympathy which the Poles have ever felt for each of the two great Western Powers—admiration for Great Britain, love for France. At the present moment they place absolute trust in their honesty and their aim. They honour their leaders, and have faith in the justice of their cause. Many times during the last few weeks I have heard this sentiment on Polish lips: "We believe in England because she was the country which liberated the slaves and gave independence to Greece. England will remember, with the French, the gallant French with whom we fought side by side in times gone by, that they signed the Treaty of Vienna, guaranteeing political freedom of Poland."

Several weeks after the war began I had the honour to meet a great French statesman, who expressed himself to me in the following memorable words: "This war, much more than even the Napoleonic wars, is a war of nationalities. We are not fighting, like the Germans, for auto-

cracy; we are fighting for the most sacred rights of humanity, for freedom, and, above all, for the freedom of small or oppressed nations." There is no nation in the world whose oppression, in proportion to its size, has been so severe as that of Poland, whose population is over three times greater than that of Belgium, greater than the population of all the Balkan States together, greater than that of Spain, and only a little less than that of Italy—in order of size, the sixth in Europe. The day has at last dawned when the policy of Europe (or at least of the ultimately victorious half of Europe) will admit a view other than merely humanitarian of the Polish question.

As the war has proved, the Poles, whom a policy of extermination for a hundred and fifty years has left unshaken, can no longer be ignored. The friendship of a united Polish nation is of the highest political and strategic importance for any European Power. The term "Buffer State" applies exactly to Poland, containing as it does a homogenous mass of twenty-three million people, united in language and religion, cultured and enterprising and inhabiting a territory of very great agricultural and mineral wealth. Neither Russia nor Germany has in this region topographical boundaries like the Vosges, the Alps, or the sea. Generally speaking, Poland composes the greater part of that great plain extending between Berlin and Moscow.

A restored Poland, like a living bulwark between the East and the West, would become the greatest guarantee of permanent peace in Europe. The history of this nation, which records not a single war of conquest undertaken on its own behalf, should provide sufficient argument against its ever entertaining ambitions of territorial aggrandisement. Like a larger Belgium, which bore the first shock of the present conflict—as, indeed, she has borne the brunt of almost all the battles during the last thousand years, and might, had her neutrality been respected, have largely prevented the present calamity—Poland, with her much greater population, could much more effectively oppose any such violation of neutrality as Belgium has suffered.

The position of the Poles to-day prevents their making any important move to defend their cause. By the iron necessity of war they are constrained—such of them as are not engaged in the three opposing armies—to remain passive spectators of the terrible conflict which has made of their country an enormous battlefield. But this difficult situation, like a balancing trick, is liable to be changed at any moment. The Poles' natural disinclination to take sides in what has, by a horrible blow of fate, become for them an internecine war, forbids them to do more than place their trust in the policy of the Allies. They have complete faith in the Governments of France and Great Britain, a faith which the expression of sympathy for their cause contained in a letter recently addressed by the British Foreign Office to myself, as also in numerous letters which I receive daily from unknown friends and sympathisers, has profoundly established.

The Polish dream of independence, far as it seemed from realisation a few months ago, is not at all impracticable. This terrible war will have been largely waged in vain if its end does not witness the living limbs of Poland once more united and all the territory which may be properly termed Polish joined under one administration. The new Poland, (or rather the old Poland revived) must be granted a liberal constitution, national autonomy, and the right to develop her culture and industry unhampered by the present restrictions. As the history of the last fifty years shows, even under a semi-autonomous Govern-

ment the Poles proved capable of ruling themselves. The terrible lessons of the past have not been forgotten.

The Poles, though fervent Catholics, are not fanatics; the small religious and other communities scattered in the western and southern parts of Poland will enjoy equal freedom with themselves. Whatever faults history has accredited to this people, they have been so relentlessly oppressed.

In conclusion, I cannot refrain from quoting the following exquisite passage by Mr. Arthur Symons, written in 1908, on the occasion of a further devilish development of Prussia's policy of persecution: "The Polish race, to

those who are acquainted with it, is the most subtle and most delicate, and one of the noblest and most heroic races of Europe. Its existence should be as precious to Europe as that of a priceless jewel. The hand of Prussia is stretched out to steal it, the hand of a thief snatching at a jewel. If it is stolen, there will be an end of its vivid, exquisite life. Its light will be put out under bolts and bars in darkness. What has Prussia to do with a race which it cannot understand: a race which desires only peace with freedom?"

"Peace with Freedom"—no finer motto could be inscribed on the banner of the restored Poland.



Independence or Autonomy?

By STANISLAUS OSADA



WISH to take exception to George Macaulay Trevelyan's statement that the Poles have in the last generation abandoned the idea of an independent Poland; rather he should have said that the idea of an independent Poland as a result of the Czar's promises of autonomy has been strengthened, but expected to be possible of realization when the parcels that Russia, Prussia and Austria apportioned among themselves, will have been united and reconstituted into one political body. The Poles fully realize that on account of the differences wrought in the nationality by the triple partition a reunited Poland would prove a blessing not only to Europe, but to the Poles themselves. Independence, however, is the goal of which the Poles dream, although its realization will perhaps be the result of a century, of first existing as an autonomous unit.

For a hundred fifty years, though no longer a nation, the Poles have kept alive their intense national spirit, refusing to blend with the victors. If the war is to end in a brighter day for small nationalities, surely, the just demand of Poland cannot be overlooked. One of the best solution of European difficulties is a full recognition of race ties in the democratization of states.

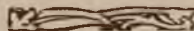
The Poles realize that it is a long way to independence, and for the time being their sole desire is to bring the divided and subdivided countrymen under one government. It is too early to speak of an independent Poland, and all they want is a reunited Poland.

It is a sad truth that the triple partition has brought about differences in the people of Poland. Despite the influence of a common literature, despite the unity of speech and faith, the hundred-fifty years under governments, the different school systems and economic lives, have almost caused a division in their national ideals and aspirations; and to-day you meet with three types of Poles, who on that account find difficulties in the way of joint and united action.

In view of this state of affairs, the Polish National Committee of Warsaw warns the Poles of the three provinces to think and work in the direction of securing political unity. It points out that the recreation, under Russian sovereignty, of the kingdom of Poland, with practically the boundaries it had before the Prussian-Russian-Austrian partition, with freedom in her language and her religion, is all that can be desired at the present.

It is true that to many of us a kingdom reconstituted and protected by Russia will not seem that so ardently longed for national resurrection; but at the same time we feel that dismembered, "torn limb from limb" for so many years, we have almost ceased to form an homogeneous unit, a harmful result which the promised autonomy would tend to eliminate.

The United States granted autonomy to Cuba; Great Britain gave self-government to the Boers very soon after the war. Let us hope that the small nationalities of Europe will be dealt with in like manner.



Our Correspondence

Chicago, Ill.

Gentlemen:

Enclosed please find \$10.00 for your relief fund. One half is from Mr. J. R. Kirchner and the other half from Capuchin Fathers.

I believe, if you let out the word Germany, you would gain more by it. There are twenty-two small states in all belonging to Germany now and I believe there is scarcely one out of the twenty-one besides Prussia that approves of the ill treatment of Prussia against Poland.

Sincerely yours,

CAPUCHIN FATHERS,
Herndon, Kas.

Dear Sir:

Your appeal for aid to help free Poland should have an echo in every Irishman's heart and why not? Have not the Irish and Polish people both Catholic peoples been despoiled of what they treasure most their language, customs and liberty as well as their national traits, their religion was assailed but in vain? Both of them have come out of persecution, still grander in their sublime faith, and both of them will have Home Rule, let us hope, in the same year.

Yours truly,

REV. P. J. BOYD, P. P.,
Ste. Sabine, Quebec, Can

FREE POLAND

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The Truth About Poland and Her People

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To Editors and Publishers

The Polish Question is a timely one throughout the world. The contents of this publication will furnish, we hope, adequate material for use at opportune moments.

Poland's Need

By JOS. F. LACZNIAK



HE sad fate of the war-stricken Belgians has deeply touched the hearts and imaginations of the civilized nations. We read daily in our newspapers of large amounts of money being subscribed, huge quantities of foodstuffs collected, concerts and entertainments given to relieve the sufferings of the poor Belgians.

But what about Poland? If Belgium deserves sympathy, as she really does, Poland deserves it a hundred-fold. If Belgium needs material help, Poland is starving for it. Belgium has friends and in proportion to her population she is the richest country on earth. Belgium faces the enemy, but has friends on all sides. Holland, England and France receive the shelterless with open arms, feed, clothe and comfort them, and these countries are immeasurably rich. But above all, Belgium fights for her own honor, and in all the inexpressible sufferings, in all the flood of tears, which this terrible war has inflicted upon them, there is that one consolation, which makes death an honor and suffering a glorious sacrifice. But for whom does Poland suffer, bleed and die? For her arch-enemies who partitioned her more than a century ago and have oppressed and persecuted her ever since. For whom does she sacrifice her youths, her flower of manhood and her worldly goods? For her enemies, into whose armies Poland's sons have been impressed so that brother meets brother as an enemy upon the battle-field. Poland suffers without hope, the rulers of the three Powers that have

partitioned Poland have chosen her soil as a stamping ground for the countless hordes of their armies. The tramp of men and the beat of hoof, the thunder of artillery and turmoil of battle reverberate from Poland's soil, the glare of war's firebrand reflected in the Polish sky lays waste to the Polish cities, villages and hamlets, driving away Polish decrepit, old men, women and children into the shelterless rigor of the northern winter without food, without adequate clothing. Polish blood flows no matter where the battle; no matter whose are the victories or defeats. Poland suffers without hope of reward or betterment, without even that one consolation that the sacrifices have been brought upon the altar of patriotism. And who is to comfort the sorrowing? Who is to dry the tears of the countless widows and orphans? No matter where they are, they are in the enemy's country; no matter whither they turn, they face toward the enemy. Poland is poor, bitterly poor; her industrial progress has been checked by her enemies, oppressed by militarism, taxes and without national unity.

Poland was the bulwark of freedom and civilization when she was powerful. It was her great King John Sobieski, who, by his brilliant military talent saved Vienna and perhaps the entire civilized world from the Turks when with 30,000 Poles he put to rout 300,000 Turks under Kara Mustapha in the Seventeenth Century.

Poland's sons have distinguished themselves in our struggle for independence. It was Pulaski, Kościusko and hundreds of other brave Poles who fought with undying courage and self-sacrifice for our glorious Republic. Little does the average American know what a power Kosciusko and Pulaski were in bringing success to the declared independence of 1776.

The annals of the Polish race from the earliest time down to the present day is the history of the march of humanity along the highways of progress and the avenues of civilization. In the last century the persecuted Pole has done his share for his fellow-man for enlightenment, for liberty, for progress and for civilization. In sacrifice and in art, in literature and philosophy, the Pole in all lands and in all times has written his name high in the temple of human fame. In statesmanship and diplomacy, in law and in medicine, in ethics and philosophy, in research and discovery, the greatness of the Pole is and ever has been unchallengeable. It is this people who have given to the world those renowned artists—Marcella Sembrich, operatic soprano; Frederic Chopin, composer; Ignatz Jan Paderewski, virtuoso; Josef Hoffman, and Helen Modjeska, dramatic artiste; Sienkiewicz, the author of "Quo Vadis", "Pan Michal", etc. A most renowned philosopher and literary critic is Vincent Lutoslawski. Copernicus, the great astronomer was a Pole, and many and many others of equal genius.

Civilization owes much to the Pole. Christianity still more. Neither debt can ever be paid. Destroy what Poland has done for the human race and you will leave a void which cannot be filled, an abyss which cannot be bridged. Call the roll of the illustrious dead and at least one name in every 10 will be the immortal name of a distinguished Pole who has stamped his indelible impress on the brightest pages of the world's history.

To-day Poland needs our aid, for who else is there to comfort them in this their day of great sadness and affliction. Should we then not, also, come forth to-day to aid in the amelioration of these persecuted and shelterless Poles in Russia, Germany and Austria, as we are doing for the Belgians?

Two Notable Paintings



AN Alojzy Matejko was born in 1838, at Cracow. He studied at the art school in his native town, then went to Munich, and afterwards studied at the Vienna Academy. He was awarded a first class medal at the Paris Exposition of 1867, and a medal of honor in 1878.

His works are large paintings of incidents in Polish history. They include an *Episode from the Diet at Warsaw* (1867); *Stefan Batory before Pskow, 1582*; *The Sermon of Piotr Skarga* (1865); *The Placing of the Bells in the Cathedral of Cracow in 1521, in Presence of King Zygmunt and his Court* (1875); *The Union of Lublin, 1569*, (1875); *Wernyhora Prophesying the Future of Poland*; *Albrecht von Brandenburg Doing Homage to King Zygmunt I*, (1882, National Museum, Cracow); *John Sobieski Raising the Siege of Vienna* (Vatican, Rome); *Declaration of the Polish Constitution* (1892). He also painted excellent portraits and published *Ubiory w Polsce* (1860), a work representing the costumes of the Polish nation from 1222—1795. His works are notable not only for color and composition, but for the archaeological knowledge displayed in their detail. Many of the best present-day Polish painters were pupils of Matejko. He died in 1893.

Writes Ernest Duvergier de Hauranne, in *Revue de Deux Mondes*, June, 1874:

"Matejko, who is essentially consecrated to retrace the grand episodes of the history of Poland, has a talent of a singular sort, which enters into no category of the French school. By a certain romantic boldness he reminds us vaguely of Delacroix; by a certain ugly sincerity he approaches Robert-Fleury; by a certain brutal realism he sometimes recalls Hogarth; by a certain systematic barbarity he borders upon Gustave Dore, and the humorous pictures of Vibert, all brought together in enormous canvases, fifteen or twenty feet long, encumbered with people in divers costumes, full of bizarre details, spotted with brilliant colors, which are piled on the other so that the air and the light cannot play between

them. At first the eye suffers from this tumult, then one discovers an original composition, great firmness of drawing, energetic and free attitudes, and figures of surprising rudeness."

* *

Matejko's painting *Hold Pruski* (Prussian Homage) represents an incident which had occurred during the reign of Zygmunt I, (1506-1548). Zygmunt I (of the Jagiello dynasty) raised the country to the utmost pitch of prosperity. Generous and enlightened, he was beloved by the masses, while his firmness and justice commanded the respect of the turbulent nobility. His long reign of forty-two years would have been all the more brilliant if his able statesmanship had been loyally supported by his subjects. He alone recognized that the acquisition of the Prussian lands was vital to the existence of Poland; but he alone, king of a nation that was never ambitious of expanding territorially, was unable to bring about the excision of an alien element which fed like a cancer on the body politic of his people.

Prussia was then bound in vassalage to Poland. Albert von Brandenburg, expecting aid from Germany, refused to render homage to his lord. He had adopted Lutheranism. Abandoned by all, he was soon brought to terms and he agreed to do homage to the king on condition that the king "would take him under his care and acknowledge him as a secular prince of Prussia." Zygmunt in his generosity acceded, and Albert, having arrived at Cracow, was invested in the robes of his office, April 10, 1525.

* *

The battle of Grunwald (Tannenberg) is an historical incident from the times of Wladyslaw Jagiello (1386-1434). The instinct of self-preservation had, at last brought together the Poles and the Lithuanians against their common enemy—the Order of the Teutonic Knights. The issue was fought out on the fields of Grunwald, where the Knights (the later Prussians) suffered a crushing defeat at the hands of Jagiello, July 15, 1410.



MATEJKO'S BATTLE OF GRUNWALD

Helping Poland

(Continued from "Free Poland" No. 8.)

Baltimore Sun has the following: — Former Governor and Mrs. Warfield received Christmas Day a letter and cablegram from their daughter, Countess Louise Ledochowska, sending greetings, and stating that she, the Count and their little daughter Therese were well.

Her letter gives a graphic description of the horrors of war and the suffering caused by it. The condition of the sick and wounded is indescribable, and their suffering due to lack of prompt and efficient surgical and medical attention is beyond comprehension. Thousands of these unfortunate soldiers are now quartered at Wolotchiska, where the father-in-law of the Countess resides.

Governor Warfield shipped on December 15, 23 boxes of medical and surgical supplies and clothing on the Dwinsk, which should reach Archangel next week. This being a roundabout way to forward supplies, Governor Warfield is now arranging through his Moscow representative, A. W. Behr, who is now on an important mission for the Russian Government, to forward the cash he has on hand to his daughter, who will purchase in Kiev the articles most needed for the use of the hospital and for the unfortunate people in Poland.

The Governor received yesterday from Cardinal Gibbons a contribution of \$250 for the relief of the Poles who are suffering on account of the European war. He has also received \$570 from Holy Rosary Catholic Church and \$130.29 from St. Casimir's Church. Substantial amounts have come from St. Stanislaus' and St. Athanasius' churches. From representatives of the Polish element in Reading, Pa., has come a request that he accept from them a goodly sum for the sufferers of Poland and forward the same, which he has consented to do.

Governor Warfield is not personally making an appeal, but is contributing himself and receiving any contributions that may be sent him and forwarding them to Central and Southern Poland, where he believes they will do the most good.

* * *

Anaconda, Mont., Standard:—It must be that the suffering in Poland is fully as acute and as widespread as it is in Belgium. The intense sympathy of the American people has been aroused in behalf of the Belgians, and from almost every town and hamlet in the United States measures have been taken to provide food and clothing to be forwarded to the suffering Belgians.

The fighting in the western campaign of the great war in Europe has been divided between Belgium and Northern France. The fighting in the eastern campaign has been entirely in Poland. More than a century ago the ancient kingdom of Poland was overpowered by Russia, Prussia and Austria, and its territory was divided between these three surrounding nations. Such of the fighting in the eastern campaign of the present war as has taken place on Russian territory has been in that part of Russia which was taken from Poland. The fighting in Austria has been in Galicia, which is Austria's share of Poland. The incursion or two which the Russians have made into Eastern Prussia has been into that territory which was Prussia's share of Poland.

All the fighting in the eastern campaign has been, therefore, in the territory which used to be Poland and which is still inhabited mainly by the Poles. The great

armies of Germany, Russia and Austria have been marching back and forth over this territory since the beginning of hostilities. The devastation and distress must have been as great as in Belgium; it is not unlikely that it has been much greater. Poland is farther from the news centers than Belgium and not so much has been heard of conditions in that desolated country. The suffering is doubtless as great as or greater than it is in Belgium.

* * *

Butte (Mont.) Miner:—Not only for many years, but for centuries, has Poland intermittently been the scene of bitter strife, with the result that the people there have been subjected to almost continuous distressing events.

Long before the dividing up of Poland's territory among Prussia, Russia and Austria, in the latter part of the eighteenth century, internal strife caused conditions in Poland to be in a constant state of upheaval.

Claiming that Poland's inability to settle its own troubles was a threat against European peace and that the best way to end that dissension would be by dividing up Poland's provinces, Frederick the Great of Prussia, Empress Catherine, of Russia, and the astute diplomat, Imperial Chancellor Kaunitz, who was chief of state, as it were, for the Empress Marie Therese of Austria proceeded to cut up Poland as best suited them.

Subsequently many disturbances took place on Poland's soil.

Today there is terrible fighting there between the German and Russian armies and the natural result is more devastation there.

The Poles always were a valiant race, and perhaps it was their war-like proclivities and turbulent bravery that resulted in such dissensions among them that they could not preserve their country as a nation.

These Poles who, of necessity, had to become citizens of whatever country to which the portions of Poland in which they lived was annexed, proved themselves loyal and progressive.

Nevertheless, Poland's soil continues a battleground even in these modern days.

* * *

Milwaukee Wisconsin:—Poland was the Belgium of a hundred years ago, and now Poland once more is overrun by armies, and her people are desolate and destitute. Dispatches coming by way of London recently have told of the ruin of scores of Polish towns. "Man's inhumanity to man makes countless thousands mourn."

* * *

Aberdeen (Wash.) World:—Poland calls for your sympathies as much as Belgium, if not more.

Poland is a country of about thirty million people, were its subjects reunited in its ancient borders. Of the Polish people, some are compelled to fight in the German army, some with the Austrians and some with the Russians. Brother is pitted against brother, with neither any great interest in the quarrel.

In the eastern theater of war, the fighting has all been on Polish territory, with the Pole of Galicia seeking to expel the invading Russian hordes and the Pole of Russian Poland caught between the Russian and German fire.

Lodz, a city of 450,000 people has been a bone of contention between the marching hosts. It has been lost by the Russians, only to be regained and then lost. Warsaw, capital of Russian Poland, a city of more than 750,000 people, has twice been in danger of assault and bombardment and is again menaced. Four hundred Polish villages are declared to have been laid waste by the battles between the contending forces. Thousands are homeless, of course, and hungry.

Russian Poland is a great farming section. It is rich in all sorts of resources. Yet its population, in general, is poor. Long years of misrule and oppression have reduced these peasants to the barest edge of poverty. They manage to get enough to live on, and that is about all. It is a sad ending to the history of a once proud, independent, intelligent, wealthy country, counted among the powers of Europe and quite able to wage battle with any of them on even terms. There is nothing laid aside in this region by the vast bulk of people for the inevitable rainy day; the daily struggle to live uses every energy and resource.

The climate of Poland is something like the climate of Iowa. It is bitter cold there now. It will remain cold until March or April. Travel is by sledge. The precipitation is not as great as in Belgium or northern France, but the snow fall will be steady and the snow stays. It is no picnic to be shelterless and hungry in Poland at this time of the year.

Stories of the sufferings endured in Poland by the helpless, hapless non-combatants, who have been dragged into this war without their own consent, will exceed, no doubt, those told of the Belgians. The latter appear nearer. Their stories have come through to this country because the press censors of London and Paris have thought it worth while to impress German atrocities on the American mind. The Allies, however, are not guiltless in Poland where the very land has cried out against the deeds of the Cossacks. Neither are the Germans guiltless there. It would take an impartial newspaper observer to tell just exactly what has happened in Poland and to place the blame evenly on Russian and German shoulders.



MATEJKO'S HOLD PRUSKI (PRUSSIAN HOMAGE)

Courtesy "Dziennik Chicagoski"

"Lest We Forget"

By CASIMIR GONSKI



ABOUT eight years ago the writer translated and caused to be published a letter of protest addressed by Henry Sienkiewicz to all authors, scientists and artists of the world, anent the then proposed Prussian expropriation laws aimed at the Poles under Prussian domain. That proposed law has since become enacted and it has been frequently enforced with all the rigors which its terms provide.

Lest the world forget the cruelty of that crime, cloaked with the righteousness of "Kultur"—pregnant Prussian legislation, lest the world forget how the protests of the oppressed went unheeded, how the outcry of an injured sense of justice echoing from every civilized corner of the globe never penetrated the heart or conscience of Prussia's ruler and legislators, lest the world now believe the as-

surance of that very government as to its friendly intentions toward its unfortunate Polish subjects of whom nearly half a million are impressed into Prussia's service in fratricidal strife fighting Prussia's cause, so that the Prussians, Poland's oppressors might have a "place in the sun,"—lest the world now believe such thinly clothed promises of pretended good-will of a government whose mouthpieces even now, while the eagle of victory, not unlike the symbolic dove of peace, flutters affrightedly not knowing whither to turn and where to alight, proudly pronounce that Prussia will never surrender one foot of Polish territory,—lest the world forget what it should remember, believe what it should doubt, Sienkiewicz's letter and the comments of the writer, then made, are herewith republished:

"There has come to pass, in this twentieth century, a fact which defies civilization, laws, justice and all those humane conceptions which form the foundation of life and culture in modern society.

"For some time there has existed in Prussian Poland a Commission of Colonization, having for its purpose the purchase of lands belonging to Poles, and the colonization thereof by Germans, and this for moneys to which the Poles were compelled to contribute. Adding to this the martyrdom of Polish children in Prussian schools and the recently projected prohibition of the mother-tongue at meetings, it would seem, that the wrong and the disregard of equality before the law could not have been greater.— Yet, a government proclaiming the principle 'might before right' did not want to confine itself to such limits.

"And so the recently introduced bill in the Prussian parliament provides for the compulsory expropriation of all Poles, who are subject to the Prussian sceptre from their own ancestral and much loved soil, inhabited for hundreds of years and on which scores of generations were born and have labored.

"That part of the Polish nation which was grasped by the domain of the Hohenzollerns, does not fan the flame of revolution, it conducts itself peacefully; strictly it discharges the heavy obligations cast upon it in the course of events; it pays taxes and furnishes soldiers whose valor on the battlefield even Bismarck has often admitted. So that, when the first news of the proposed expropriation appeared in the European press the project was generally regarded as a wild and senseless caprice of a few fanatics deprived both of the sense of morality and of reason. It seemed that a civilized state, acknowledging property rights as a corner stone of the social structure, would never dare ruthlessly to trample upon such principle and to strike at the most fundamental conception of justice. Nobody could believe that such a thing were possible in a state which proclaims to be Christian.

"Yet, chancellor Buelow has introduced in the Prussian parliament a project for compulsory expropriation of the Poles,—and the parliament did not send the chancellor to a school of law and morals, but did send the bill to a committee.

"The official knowledge of this has spread throughout the world and to the credit of humanity be it said, that it has evoked everywhere a cry of protest and indignation. The European press, without distinction of nationality or partisanship, and with it, the entire independent German press have stigmatized the project of the Prussian government as an infamous attack upon elementary human rights.

"And with such expressions of general indignation and contempt, even such a government must reckon. But we Poles would wish that the protest against such barbarism should last the longest time possible and assume the greatest proportions. For this reason we do not regard as sufficient the voice of the press, whose province is to discuss, day after day, the happenings of the world. An enduring and an immeasurably dignified character can be given to such protest by the expression of individual opinion of the distinguished representatives of science, literature and art throughout the world. Such an expression will be the final judgment of a common conscience upon an unheard-of crime, and at the same time a most potent plea of defense for a large portion of a nation whom history records cultured and deserving.

"This is not a matter of meddling with the internal affairs of the Hohenzollern kingdom; this is a matter concerning all the peoples, a matter in which every civilized

man has the right to take voice, and above all, such men who among their nations are pillars of civilization and culture.

"For this reason we turn to you, estimable sir, with a fervent prayer for an expression of your opinion on the question raised by the Prussian government:—the compulsory expropriation of the Poles from their soil. We turn to you, not because we doubt for a moment that your opinion would be otherwise than a voice of indignant condemnation, but for the reason, that a public expression of such opinion will stamp the greatest wrong and the greatest disgrace in the history of the twentieth century, will fill with hope the Polish nation and might even be a help to all those upright Germans, who, not wishing to disgrace themselves before the world, themselves oppose the infamous and unconstitutional project of the Prussian government.

HENRYK SIENKIEWICZ."

PICTURE FROM THE EASTERN THEATER OF WAR



Polish Roman Catholic Church in Piaseczno, near Warsaw, only slightly damaged by German artillery. Taken by Mr. L. Straszewicz of Warsaw Poland.

"The above letter of the distinguished author was recently addressed by him from Paris to all the prominent scientists, authors and artists of the world. The letter is not the expression of an individual; it is not addressed to individuals merely, or a class. Its scope and purpose are more extensive. It is the one-voiced cry of protest of a nation, politically disintegrated, but strong and unconquerable in its spirit of nationality. And the cry of pro-

test goes forth to all the civilized peoples of the earth. It is a protest against a physical crime to resist which the strongest national spirit might be of no avail. The projected crime was conceived by the Prussian government, a satanically ingenious project. For decades Prussian statesmen have planned and experimented how to break and extinguish the indomitable national spirit of a politically non-existing nation. Even the Iron Chancellor's statecraft was but a reed to stem the tide. If Buelow conceived the present scheme, the shade of Bismarck will envy him. "Remove the tree from its soil, and its life will die; remove the Pole from his soil, the soil he loves because it is drenched with his father's blood, and his strong and proud spirit will be but a sighing wind." So Prussia calculates."

"It is not an easy matter for an American citizen to grasp the significance of the proposed law of expropriation. For an illustration:—If in 1845 in Texas, or in 1865 in the South or in 1898 in Porto Rico, Cuba and the Philippines, the conqueror had said to the conquered:—"the land which you now own, and which your ancestors may have owned for centuries before you, with all that it contains and all that it carries, you must place at the disposal of the new government, which will pay you what it sees fit, you shall have no voice in the matter of price; and having paid you, you must go. But in the meantime you must not sell or remove anything, neither your cattle, nor the products of the soil, neither the very bed you

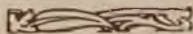
sleep in nor the dog with which your children play."—Such in brief, is the proposed law in its working.

But a century has elapsed since Prussia has forcibly acquired her Polish provinces, and during that century they have enriched her coffers by millions, they have given her thousands of her best sons, who have shed their blood for their oppressors and have died on the battlefields of Denmark, Austria and France to uphold the glory of the rapacious Prussian eagle. Brave soldiers; peaceful subjects; but they are Polish at heart! That is their crime! A crime which God Himself has planted into every one of those hearts which now beat in anguish and appeal to the world to save them from the cruel, inconceivable wrong about to be inflicted on them.

Sienkiewicz's letter has found a ready response in Europe; Mr. Delpech, Vice president of the French Senate, Gen. Langlois, soldier and author, Bjornson, Lombroso, Markow are among the many who have voiced their protests in emphatic terms.

The liberty loving American nation, through its men prominent in the domains of science, literature, art and politics will surely swell this protest of humanity against barbarism.

It is with this end in view, and to secure the widest publicity, that the influence of the American press will find a grateful appreciation by those who are concerned directly by the proposed law and by their many friends and sympathizers."



The Polish Question in the American Press

New York Evening Post:—Few of us stop to reflect how the tide of battle has swept back and forth over the fields and towns of Russian Poland and of Galicia, with all the widespread suffering and destruction and horror which this has caused. We think of East Prussia as German, and set down the Russian invasion of it as a blow mainly felt at Berlin; but the province contains a large Polish population, and it is of a sort in general not able to flee before the Cossacks, and so most exposed to the miseries of war. Indeed, those cannot be far wrong who assert that the Poles are as fully deserving of commiseration as the Belgians. More than five hundred towns, chiefly occupied by Poles, are reported to have been destroyed in the course of the fighting which has surged back and forth. The distress of thousands of helpless civilians has so impressed their compatriots and sympathizing friends in this city that a Polish relief committee has been organized, with headquarters at 105 West 40th str., of which Mme. Marcella Sembrich is the honorary president. The need which it is designed to meet is unquestionably great and piteous.

One of the ghastly tragedies of the war is the way in which compulsory military service has forced Poles to fight against Poles. There are great numbers of them in the Russian army; and perhaps as many more in the ranks of the Austrians and the Germans. They have all, so far as known, done their military duty; but it must add a bitterness to death for them to know that it is their own blood kindred whom they are, in many cases, compelled to fight. International law no longer permits a conqueror, like Napoleon, to force the troops of a beaten army to take service under his banner and possibly to lead

them against their own countrymen. But virtually such a fate has befallen the Poles this year; the far-off consequences of the breaking up and partition of their ancient kingdom having been to set them in unnatural battle array against each other.

* * *

Passaic Daily Herald:—But what of Polish hopes growing out of the war? Is there any real foundation for the belief that its close may see a reunited and autonomous, if not independent Poland? Up to present, all that the Poles have to go upon is vague promises. Their friendship and support have been actively competed for. It was before the end of August that the Russian Grand Duke issued his manifesto and appeal. His language to the Poles was that "the hour has "struck" for fulfilling the "holy dream of your fathers". "Let the boundaries cutting asunder the Polish people be effaced; let them unite under the sceptre of the Czar." Under that sceptre Poland was to be born again, "free in religion, language, and self-government." This was well fitted to stir Polish enthusiasm, but, after all, was there anything in it more solid and sure than in the proclamation of the German commanding general, Von Morgen? He caused it to be posted in the parts of Russian Poland invaded by German arms: "Arise and drive away with me those Russian barbarians who have made you slaves. Drive them out of your beautiful country, which shall now regain her political and religious liberty. This is the will of my mighty and gracious King." No wonder that the Poles have doubted both these advances, and have been quietly organizing a new party which takes as its watchword, "We do not want to hear of Russia or of Austria or Ger-

many. We want only one thing—the Polish state without guardianship from any side.”

Georg Brandes, in the *Day*, declares that this is a political impossibility. It is no time, in his opinion, to begin shouting *Polonia fara da se*. That Poland should be able of herself to attain her freedom he holds to be out of the question. This may be so; and yet when the final settlement is made after the war, the case of the Poles will plainly demand way in which, for a hundred and fifty years, though no longer a nation, they have kept alive their intense national spirit refusing to blend with their conquerors; and the burning high again of their hopes in the midst even of the devastation which the war has brought upon them—all this must be allowed weight. If the war is to end in a brighter day for small nationalities, the just demands of Poland can not be wholly overlooked.

* * *

Springfield, O., News:—We speak of it now as “Little Poland,” but the time is not many centuries gone when it was “Great Poland”, and her people hope that the near future will bring back the former freedom and the former greatness.

The outcome of the war in Europe is of great moment to Poland. Her allegiance has been sought by all the powers and by all of them has it been claimed. These powers who have in the past been the executioners of the downtrodden country and sharing in the spoils, have suddenly become the greatest friends. One of the contenders would free Poland from the other, but it appears that Poland is playing a waiting game so far as may be possible, hoping to emerge with the victors in position to become again a great independent nation.

Poland has always been oppressed, or driven on one side or on the other. The idea of the other powers has not been to rule Poland but to absorb Poland. There has been Prussianization, Germanization and Russianization, but the spirit of Poland has remained with what was left of the country. The Poles hope for nothing from Germany but total absorption. They hope for more from Austria but fear Austria's ability in the event of a victory. Between the Poles and Russians a wide gulf of hate and blood exists.

And so in this old world conflict the Polish leaders are counseling wisdom and patience. Their feelings are aroused and their hopes live, but peace is desired that will bring Poland out a victor with the victors.

The idea of the Polish leaders is unique to say the least. With conscripted Poles in the armies, with fighting in the heart of Poland, with their accused oppressors flying one at the other, can it be wondered that the hopeful people see coming retribution and justice? Is there not a possibility that a new Poland may rise over the ruins of the old, when the new peace comes to Europe?

* * *

Chicago Daily News:—Proof sheets from “King Albert's Book”, the volume, which, as told in dispatches, is being widely circulated in aid of the suffering Belgian

people, have reached Chicago. Two hundred and forty persons, representing thirteen different nationalities, are the contributors. The keynote of all they have written, both in verse and prose, is praise of the heroism of the Belgians and sorrow over the devastation of the little kingdom.

Ignace Paderewski, the great Polish pianist, wrote the following:

“There is no country where the tragedy of Belgium created more sorrow and indignation than in Poland. Nowhere did the unshakable heroism of the Belgians and their glorious king inspire more sincere admiration, more profound reverence. And yet of these sentiments no tangible proof has been heard. Though over one million and a quarter of her sons are under arms, Poland has no right to speak; though before spoliation her territory was much larger than the whole of present Germany, she is now destitute, poor. The terrific storm which destroyed Belgium's most deserved prosperity is raging furiously over our country, and wherever it comes it leaves nothing—nothing but eyes to weep. There is no land where Belgium's fate has moved so many hearts, but we do not weep, we do not complain, we do not despair. King Albert's and his people's immortal example gives us courage and strength, as it always will comfort, strengthen and encourage all countries and nations suffering and longing for liberty.”

* * *

The Citizen, Ottawa, Canada:—After a century of military crime by robber nations against Poland it is an inspiring fact that the movement to free the Polish people and build up the nation once again is strong to-day; and with victory over Germany there will be every reason to hope for a free Poland. The Russian knout and Siberia and Prussian gallows and tariff taxes and every form of despotism would seem to have been used to crush and destroy a brave people.^a The story of treachery and oppression by the powers of Russia, Prussia, and Austria, leading to the complete partition of Poland, is a black chapter in the history of Europe. But the Polish love of liberty and progress has refused to be crushed. Though freedom of speech and worship and the right to meet in public and to use the Polish language have been taken away, through the glorious medium of music and of literature and religion the spirit of Poland has been kept alive. It is very much alive now and promising to grow.

The Polish National Council of America has started the publication of a semi-monthly journal, called *Free Poland*, to give the liberty loving citizens of this continent the truth about Poland and her people. It contains a number of good and well written articles on various phases of the Polish question and of the Slav peoples generally. With the center of the war between Russia and Germany raging in Poland much of the information contained in *Free Poland* is of interest to Canadian readers and students of the European situation. The price of this new and enterprising little paper is 5 cents a copy or \$1 per year. It is published in Chicago and may be ordered through local news agents.



Appeal For Poland in the Press

Milwaukee-Free Press:—It affords a sad commentary on the perversity of human emotionalism that while sympathy for Belgium is a drug on the market, only isolated and disregarded are raised in behalf of stricken Poland.

Yet against the Belgian people still weighs the serious and undisproved charge of initial violation of their own neutrality, as well as the lack of any moral or legal necessity for opposing with arms the pacific progress of German forces through their territory.

But Poland, the dismembered "Niobe of nations" has been converted into the battleground of the eastern war through no fault or determination of her people. Yet Pole has been arrayed against Pole by the dictates of alien governments, and the land laid waste in a conflict whose stake is remote from the aspirations of the Polish race.

It is difficult to understand, therefore, why American sentiment, which has been so freely and even indiscriminately exercised in behalf of the Belgians—which has found practical expression in large relief funds—should be so slightly touched by the desolation and suffering that has come upon Polish soil and its inhabitants.

As we say, such a contradiction can only be explained

on the ground of that undisciplined, trip-hammer emotionalism which is characteristic of all too many Americans who hold the melodramatic attitude toward life.

It may be said here that while the Polish people throughout the world still cling passionately to their hope of a restored Polish nation within its own territorial and governmental confines, that as between the rule of Germany and the rule of Russia they must inevitably prefer the former, and to that extent desire German rather than Russian success in this war.

There is, moreover, another reason why this should be their hope. From any number of German sources it is made clear that in the event of a decisive Teutonic victory the popular demand of the German people would be for the reunion and re-establishment of Poland as a separate state, under its own ruler, although with certain responsibilities to the German empire.

In any event, whatever their past grievances because of Prussia's part in the partition, the modern Poles have nothing to expect in the way of larger liberties from Russia's success, they have everything to gain and nothing to lose from German victory.



PHOTOGRAPH FROM THE EASTERN TERRAIN OF WAR

Taken and brought to America at considerable danger by Leszek Straszewicz, publisher of Warsaw, Poland. The scene representing the Sanitary Corps of the Warsaw Cyclist's Association, was taken in front of the railroad station, in Warsaw.

Editor Detroit Journal. We have observed with sympathetic feelings the most generous attitude of all American citizens to the appeal of the innocent sufferers in the war zones of the west. Hundreds of thousands of dollars have been most generously contributed to alleviate the untold sufferings in Belgium.

May we call attention to the cry of the children of Posen, Galicia and of other districts of the border land of the east?

The children of Belgium may flee to England and Holland. The children of Galicia and Russian Poland are doomed to endure the terrible wintry storms of these dis-

tricts. Their cry has not been heard. Reporters can not enter this devastated district. The camera cannot give its adjustable interpretation.

An occasional letter is smuggled through to friends in the United States. These sad appeals would, if known, stagger humanity.

And all should arise in unison to demand that these sufferings should be alleviated, or permission be given to active relief parties to enter these districts.

The work of the noble Red Cross should be supplemented by relief parties for the distressed widows and orphans.

It is a mission worthy of the Knights Templars, of the Knights of Columbus, of the Knights of Luther, of the organized and united brotherhoods of all churches in our country, of all the united brotherhoods of the workers of the world, and of all societies founded for the support of windows and orphans, and of Sons of the American Revolution.

Let us hear the unheard cry from Galicia, Posen, East Prussia and Russian Poland. We have heard Poland's cry for centuries. We have heard the cries "of my

beloved Jews" for decades. Let us listen to the suppressed shrieks of the children of tender years. Then let us advocate fair distribution of our sympathy and of our bountiful contributions.

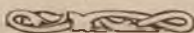
In closing we may quote from your editorial of Wednesday:

The dispatches have fired Cracow. Is one expected to rejoice or to mourn? Pity poor, dismembered Poland, whose still quivering limbs are again being bruised by war, Posen, Galicia and Russian Poland are the buffers in the conflict, battle torn like Belgium, her people placed on the firing line of each warring nation, and her cities exposed to the heel of one conqueror and now of another. "Freedom shrieked when Kosciuszko fell." Freedom shrieks now in a thousand hills.

You might have added with even more power the story of the valley of the shadow of death of the regions beyond the firing lines in Galicia. Many a Christian child is kneeling in the silent prayer of poverty and of passion.

A Son of The American Revolution.

Ann Arbor, Nov. 14.



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